

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory
Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division
Environmental Characterization and Apportionment Branch**

RFQ-RT-10-000105

The Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division of the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL), Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking individuals, at least 18 years of age, who have completed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in chemistry, atmospheric science, environmental science or a related field in the past two years from an accredited college/ university to provide services under a contractual agreement to its Environmental Characterization and Apportionment Branch in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

The EPA NERL conducts research and development that leads to improved methods, measurements, and models to assess and predict human health and ecosystem exposures to harmful pollutants and other conditions in air, water, soil, and food. The study of mercury and metals in the atmosphere is an important component of NERL's human health and ecosystem exposure research. The Environmental Characterization and Apportionment Branch (ECAB) conducts numerous laboratory and field atmospheric mercury and metals research studies to improve the understanding of fate and transport from the point of emissions into the atmosphere to the deposition processes. Specifically, this research produces source emission and atmospheric process information to improve models that are used to predict mercury and metal deposition and data on the relative source contributions (including local, regional, global) to mercury and metal deposition. These research results are used to develop scientifically sound policies for risk management.

The student contractor will provide support to ECAB's source apportionment team through a variety of activities, including processing field data, sample preparation and analysis, developing and quality assuring analytical data bases, statistical and meteorological trajectory modeling, and writing peer reviewed papers. Additional duties can include interpretation of upper air meteorological sounding data, database design and management and running air quality model simulations. The student contractor should possess experience in general laboratory techniques, atmospheric mercury studies, and/or meteorology in order to provide these services, as well as having completed a Ph.D. level degree in science.

This contract is projected to begin, depending upon the availability of the selected student contractor, approximately May 2010. This initial contract will be for 12 months, not to exceed 1411 hours, with an option to extend the period of performance for an additional year, not to exceed hours 935 Hours. It is anticipated that the student contractor will/may work up to 40 hours per week. The majority of the work will be Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The principal duty location is 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. The student may enter the building only during business hours or when a project member is present. Work will be primarily performed in a laboratory but some field work

may be required. The student will need to know basic laboratory safety requirements and will be given additional safety training at the EPA facility in RTP, NC.

U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in this program. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). All non-US citizens must submit, as part of their proposal package, evidence of their immigration status that allows them to work in the United States.

EPA ORD employees, their spouses, and children are NOT eligible to participate in this program and receive these contracts.

The hourly rate is commensurate with the minimum required level of education and experience, as follows: \$42.11 per hour for a student who has completed all the requirements of a Ph.D. Student contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and do not receive overtime premium for any hours worked beyond a 40-hour week. Student contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local, and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Interested students or recent graduates may apply for this opportunity by providing a one or two-page (excluding the copy of the transcript and documentary evidence from USCIS if appropriate) resume or statement of qualifications, including:

- Full legal name;
- Mailing address;
- Telephone number;
- Email address (if any);
- Date of Birth;
- Place of birth;
- Citizenship, or immigration/visa status (documentary evidence from USCIS);
- Description of relevant classes to the Statement of Work;
- Experience related to the scientific field (paid or volunteer work and academic);
- Laboratory work experience (if applicable to these services);
- Recommendation Letter;
- Statement of your commitment to fulfill at least the initial year of the order, if selected.

Additionally, students must submit a statement indicating the student proposes the applicable hourly rate of \$42.11 as specified above in order to have an acceptable proposal. A student or recent graduate must also include a letter of recommendation from an academic advisor, major professor, or other professional associate familiar with the applicant's skills and performance. Attach a copy of all of your college/university transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable, if it is apparent from the transcript copy that is a copy of an official document and that the school is identified), listing courses taken, grades and overall GPA. Send your resume or statement of qualifications, transcripts, recommendation letter and rate acceptance statement to Jeff Clodfelter, Contract Specialist, via email at Clodfelter.Jeffery@epa.gov or fax to: (919) 685-3008. The submission deadline will be listed at the website shown below.

Prior to applying for this position, you should visit the EPA solicitation web page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd to learn the full details of the proposed contract. Please follow the link to under the solicitation "Student Services RFQ-RT-10-00105" and read all of the attached documents. This website should be visited periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any amendments (changes to the requirement of the posted position) have been issued. If you have any questions on the information contained on this website, contact Jeff Clodfelter, Contract Specialist, via email at Clodfelter.Jeffery@epa.gov

The Government will make contract award(s) based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement. Students who perform under contract for EPA will be required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. Selected students or recent graduates will be provided copies of the appropriate forms and instructions on their completion and submission requirements. The Government may elect to award contracts to multiple students under this Announcement. Personal interviews may be conducted with the most promising candidates.

Any proposal received at the Government office designated after the exact time specified for receipt is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, and the Contracting Officer determines that accepting the late offer would not unduly delay the acquisition and:

a). It was transmitted electronically and received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m., one working day prior to the date established for receipt; or there is acceptable evidence to establish it was received at the Government installation and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt; or

b). It was the only proposal received.

However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the office designated by the exact time specified, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the announcement, the time specified for receipt will be deemed extended to the same time of day specified on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

The Government will make contract awards based on all other factors other than price (students'/recent graduates' knowledge and skills, academic and work experience -- training and course work as it relates to the services described in the Announcement) being significantly more important than price. Personal interviews may be conducted with the most promising candidates.

The evaluations of students' resumes or statements of qualifications will be based on the evaluation factors posted on the solicitation website.

Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide nor pay for housing, meals, or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station location. If performance of the contract requires overnight travel, the student/recent graduate contractor will travel under the rules and procedures established for Federal employee travel.

EPA will be responsible for compensating students or recent graduates in the same manner as Federal employees for any injury suffered while performing these services. Students or recent graduates are protected from personal common-law tort liability for damages to third parties arising out of his/her work under the same broad-based immunity provided to Federal employees while performing these services. Properly licensed students or recent graduates may be permitted to drive Government vehicles, if required to do so by the statement of work.

Students or recent graduates will be required to comply with Federal requirements for Standards of Ethical Conduct and Conflicts of Interest.

Students or recent graduates may be offered, at Government expense, non-mandatory vaccinations, immunizations, treatments, medical examinations, and health and safety training to safeguard their health prior to beginning certain types of work which may expose them to health or safety risks in the environment.

Selected students or recent graduates will receive more information about these issues prior to award of any contracts.

Questions regarding this student contract should be directed to the contract specialist Jeff Clodfelter, at Clodfelter.Jeffery@epa.gov. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Matthew Landis, the EPA technical mentor, landis.matthew@epa.gov or by calling (919) 541-4841.